Rishikesh are closed since October, 1996, except for some limited production of formulations.

(b) IDPL, Rishikesh is one of the units of IDPL, which is a sick company referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR).

(c) The losses for the last two years of IDPL, Rishikesh are as under:

	Rs. Crores
1998-1999	75.13
1999-2000	83.70 (Provisional)

(d) The future of the company would be determined by the proceedings and final decision of the BIFR.

Replacement cost of IPCL assets

3424. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 135 given in the Rajya Sabha on 3rd March, 2000 and state:

(a) whether the process of assessment of replacement cost of fixed assets of IPCL has been completed;

(b) if so, the estimated replacement cost; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in assessment of the replacement cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.

(c) The process of assessment of the replacement cost is a part of the ongoing process of disinvestment of 25% equity through strategic sale in Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited (IPCL).

Use of banned pesticides

†3425. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of chemical fertilizers, insecticide and chemicals are still being used in India but the same have been banned in other countries of the world due to their harmful effects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (c) While there are no chemical fertilizers in use in India, which have been banned abroad, there are a number of insecticides and chemicals, which have been banned in one or more countries but which are still in use in India. Countries permit or ban the use of chemicals and pesticides depending on, *inter alia*, the prevailing environmental and agro-climatic conditions. In India, Expert Committees are appointed from time to time to study the data on various parameters of toxicology and based on their recommendations, the particular insecticides/chemicals are banned on their use restricted.

LNG projects

3426. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the LNG projects;

(b) whether the Department of Fertilizers has set up a core group to suggest a national strategy on Liquified Natural Gas usage;

(c) if so, the strategy suggested by the core group; and

(d) the details of proposed import plan of LNG and agreements made/ proposed to be made in this regard and countries offering LNG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) A list of LNG project initiatives is enclosed in the statement (*See* below).

(b) to (d) Government had constituted a Core Group of fertilizer companies to explore the possibility of import of LNG for manufacture of fertilizers. The